

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 05234 051857Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05

AID-05 TRSE-00 /078 W

-----023497 051901Z /41/73

P R 032215Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1460

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCSO J2 QH CZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LA PAZ 5234

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL

SUBJ: POLITICAL TENSIONS IN THE BOLIVIAN ELECTORAL HOME

STRETCH

REF: LA PAZ 5106

1. IN LA PAZ 5106 THE EMBASSY REFERRED TO A DECLARATION CONTAINED IN THE CONFIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER IPE, WHICH REVEALED THAT IN THE EARLY APRIL MEETING OF THE ARMED FORCES A DOCUMENT HAD BEEN AGREED WHICH STATED THAT THE ARMED FORCES WOULD STRENGTHEN (VIGORIZAR) THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN OF CANDIDATE JUAN PEREDA. THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COURT JULIO MANTILLA TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS SUBSEQUENTLY THAT HE HAD SENT A LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE ASKING FOR CLARIFICATION SINCE THE IPE ARTICLE HAD BEEN CARRIED IN ALL THE LA PAZ NEWSPAPERS AND IF TRUE, THE ARMED FORCES DOCUMENT VIOLATED THE ELECTORAL LAW.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 05234 051857Z

ON JUNE 29, LA PAZ PRESS REPORTED THAT MANTILLA HAD DECLARED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COURT HAD ASKED THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT, FOR A "CATEGORICAL PRONOUNCEMENT" FROM THE ARMED FORCES REGARDING THE VERACITY OF THE IPE DISCLOSURE. MANTILLA SAID IT WAS NECESSARY THAT THE SITUATION BE CLARIFIED. THE FOLLOWING DAY THE PRESS CARRIED AN OFFICIAL

COMMUNICATION FROM THE ARMED FORCES CONTAINING THREE POINTS. POINT ONE REFERRED TO AN OFFICIAL "DOCUMENT OF CONCLUSIONS" WHICH HAD BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE PRESS ON THE APRIL 5 AFTER THE ARMED FORCES MEETING AT THAT TIME AND WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE ARMED FORCES DID NOT KNOW OF THE EXISTENCE OF ANY OTHER DOCUMENT. POINT TWO DENIED ACCUSATIONS OF INTERFERENCE AND PARTIALITY IN THE PREELECTORAL PROCESS. POINT THREE REITERATED THE ARMED FORCES COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT BANZER AND THE CONSTITUTIONALIZATION PRECESS. ON SATURDAY JULY 1, MANTILLA ON BRHALF OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COURT DECLARED THE COURT WAS SATISFIED WITH THE CLARIFICATION ISSUED BY THE ARMED FORCES.

2. EARLY SUNDAY AFTERNOON JULY 2, THERE WAS A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION IN EL ALTO JUST ABOVE LA PAZ, BETWEEN SUPPORTERS OF PEREDA AND SILES ZUAZO. THE CONFRONTATION APPEARED TO BE AMINLY BETWEEN FSB FOLLOWERS OF UNP CANDIDATE PEREDA AND OF SILES ZUAZO. CANDIDATE PEREDA WAS IN EL ALTO TO INAUGURATE A SCHOOL WHILE NEARLY SILES ZUAZO AND HIS VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SANDOVAL MORON WERE BEING PROCLAIMED IN THE PLAZA TUPAC KATARI. REPORTEDLY THERE WERE 40 WOUNDED, MAINLY FROM ROCKS AND OTHER PROJECTILES. ONE PERSON WAS HOSPITALIZED WITH A BULLET WOUND IN THE CHEST. THERE ALSO WERE REPORTS OF MACHINEGUN FIRE. BOTH THE UDP AND THE FSB BLAMED THE OTHER PARTY AND ISSUED DECLARATIONS TO THE PRESS. BOTH PARTIES CLAIM THAT THE VIOLENCE WAS AN ATTEMPT ON THE LIVES OF THEIR RE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LA PAZ 05234 051857Z

SPECTIVE CANDIDATES.

3. COMMENT: THE CONFRONTATION AT EL ALTO HAS BEEN THE MOST SERIOUS SO FAR AND THE ONLY CASE OF CROWD VIOLENCE THAT HAS MARRED THE CAMPAIGN EXCEPT FOR AN EARLIER ALTERCATION IN ACHICACHI (LA PAZ DEPARTMENT) THAT ALSO RESULTED IN COUNTER CHARGES BETWEEN THE PEREDA AND SILES CAMPS AS TO WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE. ALTHOUGH INTEREST AND TENSION ARE BUILDING IN THIS LAST WEEK BEFORE THE ELECTION, THE ELECTORAL PROCESS HAS BEEN QUIET AND PEACEFUL FOR THE MOST PART AND APATHY REMAINS AT A MUCH HIGHER LEVEL THAN DURING PREVIOUS BOLIVIAN ELECTIONS. THE ARMED FORCES DENIAL OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE DOCUMENT FROM THE APRIL MEETING, WHICH IPE BROUGHT INTO THE LIMELIGHT, SEEMS TO HAVE PUT THAT PARTICULAR ISSUE IN THE COOLER, EVEN IF THE DENIAL WAS NOT CONVINCING TO MOST CRITICS OF THE REGIME.

BOEKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, ELECTION FORECASTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAPAZ05234
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780279-0498
Format: TEL
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197807100/aaaadgjk.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 563fc06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LA PAZ 5106, 78 LA PAZ 5106
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1846963
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL TENSIONS IN THE BOLIVIAN ELECTORAL HOME STRETCH
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/563fc06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014